



HOLY TRINITY MONASTERY

NEWS

June 2009 – December 2009

VOLUME 34 / NUMBER 2

Dear Friends,



Father Henri Capdeville, O.S.B.

This year we celebrate our 35th anniversary of founding Holy Trinity Monastery. We got together at a local restaurant and people reminisced the many blessings and life experiences that having a Benedictine presence in southern Arizona. People really accentuated the peace that they feel when they come on the property. The walls of Medieval monasteries

exude peace that after hundreds of years of hearing the prayers and praises of the monks. After 35 years

we acknowledge that God is among us and that peace is there despite at times it seems like things are falling apart. We are still poor in our vocations. Our members are struggling with older age. Some seem to drop out, others make a sacrifice and continue in the life the best they can. Our chant has improved, and I find comfort there. God speaks to us and continually reminds us that we are His beloveds and He is with us forever.

In Christ,
Fr. Henri Capdeville, O.S.B.
Fr. Henri Capdeville, O.S.B.

St. Bernard Tolomei's Canonization

Information supplied by Valerie Lindenberger

Pope Benedict XVI canonized Blessed St. Bernard Tolomei (1272 – 1348) along with Fr. Arcangelo Tadini (1846 – 1912), Br. Nuno Alvares Pereira (1360 – 1431), Sr. Gertrude Comensoli (1847 – 1903) and Caterina Volpicelli (1839 – 1894) in a ceremony at the Vatican on April 26, 2009.



Pope Benedict XVI



(left to right) Coach, Bill Lindley, Deacon Jim Long, Abbot General, Fr. Henri and Valerie Lindenberger.

Fr. Henri Capdeville, Prior, Fr. Benedict Lemeki accompanied by Br. Gary Miller and Deacon Jim Long; residential oblate Bill Lindley; oblates Coach Leo Golembiewski, Tony Ralphs and Chris O'Connell representing Holy Trinity Monastery attended the canonization. Several other supporters of the monastery went along on the trip as well.

Everyone's accommodations were within walking distance to St. Peter's square. Before the canonization on Sunday, the monks took part in a 2-day retreat.

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St. Bernard Tolomei's Canonization

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During the monastic retreat, laity took their turn as tourists and viewed the highlights of the city. Oblates from all countries with Olivetan communities were included in the closing discussion.

Followers of each saint being canonized wore hats and carried satchels of a different color. Those attending for St. Bernard Tolomei wore white. Other colors were yellow, red, orange and royal blue. As we walked around Vatican City in the days that followed we recognized one another by the identifying color.



Fr. Henri distrusting Holy Communion

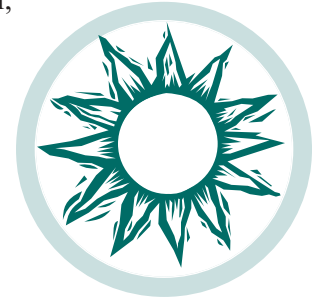
Fr. Henri and Fr. Benedict along with all other priests in attendance distributed Holy Communion to the vast throng. Because of the threat of rain, an attendant carried an umbrella over each priest.

Deacon Jim and Br. Gary also assisted the Pope at the altar. Bill Lindley was also in the sanctuary during the Mass.

The festivities concluded with a Mass of thanksgiving offered by Abbot General Michelangelo Tiribilli on Monday for all the Olivetans at the Congregation's Monastery in Rome.

Oblate NEWS

The Oblate's summer picnic in June 2009 was a blast!! After the Oblates attended the monastic conventional mass at 12.00 pm, we gathered at Fr. Louis Hall for lunch and entertainment. Sierra Vista group provided classic musical, skits, karaoke machine and a guitarist. Some of us just discovered that afternoon that we have musical talents. Bill Lindley and the cooking team from the monastery group fed us well, and we appreciate those who also provided extra dishes. We also value those who helped to decorate the hall. Thank you very much for making our 2008-2009 Oblate summer picnic a success. And don't forget to invite your family relatives and friends for our 2009-2010 Oblate summer picnic on the first weekend of June 2010.



Some of our oblates and also loved ones of our oblates had left us for the Lord during this summer. Locally, "Ollie Rothman", the wife of Robert Rothman, and also "Norman Cook", the husband of Ann Cook passed on; "Dottie Garvey" who with her family lived at the monastery for a time many years ago. "Joe Rorke", a regular visitor and benefactor just left us very recently. May their souls rest in the mercy, love and peace of our Triune God.

Br. Fred Buerman (the director of the "Hand of Help" program) had his final Oblation this summer. Fr. Henri has introduced a new oblate category this summer called the "Residential Oblates". It describes Oblates who live on the property. Raoul Viguerie had his novitiate as a "Residential Oblate" this summer.

For the Oblate groups at San Diego, El Paso, Texas and Sierra Vista, please let me know immediately when a member of your oblates or loved ones passed away to the Lord.

In the spirits of our monastic Fathers and Mothers, let us keep fighting the "good fight" until we are called from the battle field to come home and rest in the loving arm of our heavenly Father. May the prayers of our Father Benedict guide us again in this new Oblation season.

— Fr. Benedict Lemeki, O.S. B.

My first visit to an orphanage

By Valerie Lindenberger

4 people, 3 cakes, lots of toys and clothingand a drive down scenic Route 82 to Nogales, Mexico. Residential Oblate Bill Lindley, Deacon Jim Long, Shawn Georgy and myself shared a one-day road trip to Casa Hogar de Nuestros Pequeños. It is cared for by an Italian order of Carmelite nuns (Hermanas Cristo Rey I.A.P.).



They were ever so thrilled with the treasures they were given. Off they went to play in a spacious playroom with aquaria full of fish and aquatic life. The charming veranda was a-twitter with the sounds of birds - not just the wildlife, but caged birds and little tiny hatchlings too.

My idea of an orphanage is what the movie Annie depicts: everything in, well, sort of shades of gray, little moppet children in ragged torn clothing with smudged little faces, never enough to eat while being required to do a seemingly endless amount of work...for a cranky, nasty 'headmistress' and sadly, ever so sadly, never able to receive the love and attention every child needs and deserves.

Wow, oh wow, has my view of an orphanage EVER changed! This place is not gray at all, but nestled up on a hill, bathed in sunlight. When you approach the front door, beautiful blooming flowers surround it. The entranceway is so welcoming and immaculate that saying, 'you could eat off the floor' truly does apply here.

The sisters' joy and grace radiate from their smiling faces as they welcome us. The children, laughing and smiling, run up to you with hands outstretched to shake your hand. The braver littler ones will even give you a big hug. What happiness! And each little cherub was sparkling clean (not smudged or gray at all).

Off in another room you could hear the happy sounds of little infants – three small baby boys all aged between 2 and 3 months. Hmm....do you remember that smell of a fresh bathed baby? Oh my, you'd pick up these little angels and just want to breathe them in! How truly delicious an experience it was.

Then we were invited for cookies and fresh squeezed lemonade. As we enjoyed our lemonade (which I'm telling you was the very best I've ever had) you could smell the luscious lunch being prepared. The sisters sat with us with infants on their laps, just as any mother would while having an afternoon visit with friends. One little boy, who was born of a drug-addicted mother, was always 'searching' for some satisfaction. Deacon Jim placed a special blessing on him.

These children are so loved and cherished; you can feel the warmth and happiness present in their home. We left amidst happy good-byes and many wishes to return. How truly blessed we were to be a part of their day. And how truly blessed these children are to have such a loving family to care for them.

2009 Fiesta de la Primavera SWEEPSTAKES WINNERS

- \$1,000 Mike Ronquillo, Benson, AZ
- \$500 M. Ferguson, Bisbee, AZ
- \$250 Joseph Foy, San Pedro, CA
- \$50 Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Meloche, Plymouth, MI
- \$50 Robert Fletcher, Terrell, TX
- \$50 Ken Chase, Tucson, AZ
- \$50 Joy Gabriel, Sahuarita, AZ
- \$50 Raymond Vogel, Harbor Beach, MI

JOIN US FOR OUR

Fall Festival of the Arts

November 7 & 8, 2009

Saturday – 10am to 5pm

Sunday – 10am to 4pm

150+ booths of Arts & Crafts, Entertainment, and a variety of Food!

RAFFLE: \$2,000 in prize money

MASSES: Saturday at 5pm and Sunday at 10:30am & Noon

Directions to Holy Trinity Monastery: 2 miles south of St. David on Highway 80 between Benson and Tombstone, just beyond milepost 302.
For information, call 520-720-4642

HOLY TRINITY MONASTERY IS OPEN!

Reflections of a newcomer

In the “wide open spaces” of the American West, Holy Trinity Monastery (HTM) sprawls across 150 acres of Arizona High Desert. One enters through a pecan grove, drives around a 50 foot high Celtic cross, parks by Benedict Hall and gazes out across the San Pedro River to the mountains. Southwestern styled or disguised buildings are spread out but held in harmony by the same color, now locally referred to as “monastery brown.” The highest point of the property is crowned by The Chapel of Our Lady of Guadalupe, done in “Mission style” architecture, which gives the theme (and color) to the rest of the buildings. The spaciousness and openness of the physical layout has been a symbol for me of the openness of the Monastery itself.

In 2000, HTM imagined itself as a retreat center and *Opened* its door and heart to the outside. Primarily providing a space (often described by retreatants as a “holy place”) – where individuals, small and larger groups come for time alone, retreats, workshops, and meetings. HTM provides the space for sleeping, meeting, eating (with the community). Members of the community (Monks, Sisters, Oblates) are available for spiritual direction. There is an open invitation to all to join the community for the Liturgical Hours and for Eucharist.

I first learned of HTM from a friend who made a retreat here. What he described seemed so open that I wanted to see for myself. I made a brief retreat here in early 2008 and then decided to apply for HTM’s associate program. I arrived on August 13, 2008. What I have experienced matches what I was told and what the “geography” symbolizes.

HTM is first and foremost people, people who are open. If you walk around the property you will notice three distinct “villages” housing three different groups that live at the monastery:

The Monastic Enclosure or Cloister is home to the Monks, and as such is also a reminder and a clarification

that HTM may be open, but there is no confusion about who the monks are: the embodiment of the charism of recently canonized St. Bernardo Tolomei (April 26, 2009).

The “Trailer Park” consists of mobile and manufactured homes on the property, which house Oblates who have made a commitment to HTM and are known as Residential Oblates.

The Monastery also has an established RV (Recreational Vehicle) Park, made up of a regular contingent, called the “Holy Hoboes” who return year after year, with new folks joining up along the way. Some participate in the Liturgy of the Hours, more participate in the daily Eucharist and all, in some way, contribute their skills and experience to the needs of the Monastery.

Since my arrival in August of 2008, I have completed my six months in the Associate Program and petitioned to become a permanent member of the community. I was admitted to the community, and moved my “things” into my mobile home among the Residential Oblates. On August 13, my first anniversary, Father Henri accepted my Final Oblation and my lifetime commitment to HTM as a Residential Oblate. Actually, it was an easy thing for me to do: it made sense.

I have found a place open to God’s Spirit, always moving unpredictably; a place that is a “going concern”; a place that is relevant and related to our friends both near and nearer; a place that offers programs as well as opportunities. I continue to experience the “openness” of the community but in a different capacity and with a deeper understanding of this holy place. This year has been filled with special blessings as I have found a place where I am invited to pray and challenged to continue to grow. I am especially challenged to become open, as open as HTM is.

HOW TO REACH US

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Check website,
www.holytrinitymonastery.org
to read the monthly
“Chronicles” of activities
at the monastery as well as up-dated
information and Oblate news.